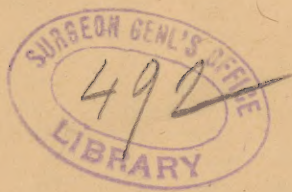


GARDNER (R.W.)

"Syrup of hydriodic acid
and its uses" — a reply.



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"SYRUP OF HYDRIODIC ACID AND ITS USES."

A REPLY.

By R. W. GARDNER, NEW YORK CITY.

In an article professing to have been written by "Reynold W. Wilcox, M. D., LL. D., Professor of Clinical Medicine at the New York Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital," read before the "Clinical Society of the New York Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital," Nov. 5th, 1892, and published in the "*Post-Graduate*" for February, 1893, upon "Syrup of Hydriodic Acid and its Uses" the writer very properly extols the value of this remedy, and in doing so, draws very largely, *verbatim et literatim*, from my published literature, without giving me a particle of credit for the same. In other instances where statements have been made by me, my language has been paraphrased. This would have been gratifying to me, and I should have been placed under obligations to the party (or parties) who prepared the paper, by the fact that he (or they) had considered matter originating with myself of sufficient importance to be embodied, or the ideas which it expressed, in whole paragraphs, in an *original* communication, were it not that he (or they) used these very arguments, which represent the result of considerable study and research of my own during the past fifteen years, as well as the published experience of many eminent physicians in the use of Gardner's Syrup of Hydriodic Acid, for what appears to be the purpose of booming a preparation recently put upon the market in imitation of it.

The writer does me the honor to attribute a portion of my language to Duroy, (references to the antiseptic character of the remedy) which must have been a result of unconscious cerebration, for so far as I know, the language and the ideas which it expressed, were my own.

The writer alludes to myself in a foot note, in which he remarks, that 1872 to 1879, I had made a preparation of Hydriodic Acid by double decomposition, for Dr. W. Gill Wylie, of New York. It is true that Dr. Gill Wylie, long previous to my introduction of this preparation in the form now known as Gardner's Syrup

of Hydriodic Acid, had suggested to me the desirability of preparing a more stable preparation of this remedy, and acting upon his suggestion, after many trials and a great deal of investigation by myself, the present Gardner's Syrup was put upon the market, and Dr. Wylie published a paper upon it in the *New York Medical Record* 1879, Vol. xv. p. 454, (the paper alluded to,) and has continued to use Gardner's Syrup, from that day to this, with perfect satisfaction.

As the foot note in the paper in the "*Post-Graduate*" article has been worded in such a manner as to convey the impression that Gardner's Syrup is made by double decomposition, a crude method, in which secondary products form impurities, I would say that Gardner's Syrup is not, and never has been made by double decomposition; upon reading the original paper of Dr. W. Gill Wylie, the unfair statement, or inference, will be apparent.

This allusion to a *past age*, by the writer of the article, is peculiar, when taken in connection with the free use of my *literature of 1892*, without crediting me with it. It is in fact remarkable that the author should have thought of me at all, and he doubtless would not have done so, had his mind not been refreshed by some kind friend, who "called his attention to the brief but valuable" paper of Dr. Wylie's, above referred to.

It is interesting to note that the writer in the "*Post-Graduate*" article gives credit in his communication to Drs. Wylie, Knight, Shoemaker, Wile, Field, Bently, Burrall and Craig, for language which is freely quoted, used by these gentlemen in commendation of *Gardner's Syrup of Hydriodic Acid*, and not only fails to mention this last fact, but refuses to credit me with the matter, extracted from my literature, which seems to form the basis of this *original* paper.

The demoralization of the present age is well exemplified, when an honored and respected "Clinical Professor in the New York Post-Graduate Medical School" can descend to copy without credit, and appropriate



as his own, language used by another, and not only that, but attempt to use the ideas so obtained, against their originator, who rescued Hydriodic Acid from oblivion after it had been expunged from the Pharmacopœia as an impractical and worthless remedy, and through whose efforts and sacrifices of time and money, it has been made available, and its usefulness to the medical profession and humanity, demonstrated.

If the honor of the medical profession is to be preserved and its high character maintained, it will not be by such methods as are here enumerated.

Possibly, the author was not sufficiently cautious in revising matter furnished him for this paper, which might be a mitigating circumstance.

In commenting on the preparation, in the interest of which the paper was evidently written, the author, after admitting that a permanent Syrup was made in 1878, and omitting to mention the manufacturer's name, says: "Last year for the first time was there presented to the medical profession a permanent Syrup of Hydriodic Acid which was of suitable strength, containing 11.84 grains of hydrogen iodide to the ounce of Syrup."

As to what constitutes a suitable strength, is a matter of opinion. The results of treatment which the author has so largely quoted from the experience of the above mentioned physicians, were obtained by the use of Gardner's Syrup, which contains 6.72 grains of hydrogen iodide to the fluid ounce. The more concentrated the strength, the more liability is there that the Syrup still decompose. The strength of Gardner's Syrup has always been found to be sufficient to produce the most prompt and decided action; in fact the reputation of Hydriodic Acid has been built up by the favorable results achieved by the use of Gardner's Syrup during the past fifteen years; consequently what necessity exists for a greater strength? During the fifteen years use of Gardner's Syrup, no one has complained of the necessity of a syrup of greater strength, except the writer of the "*Post-Graduate*" paper, and the firm who say they make such a preparation. The present writer believes that a greater strength would be, not only of no advantage, but a positive defect.

The chemical instability of Hydriodic Acid, it must be remembered, had always prevented its use as a medicine, until 1878, when Gardner's Syrup was introduced; up to that time no proper test had been made of its therapeutic value, as decomposition occurred almost as soon as it was prepared. This forbade its use. Consequently, in determining the question of strength, it is necessary to take into consideration the lack of chemical affinity which causes the decomposition, and which is an inherent quality of the combined elements. All other questions must be subordinated to that of a reasonable degree of permanence, and efficiency in action; both of these requisites have been proven to be possessed by Gardner's Syrup.

One of the reasons for the increased physiological action of Hydriodic Acid over the alkaline iodides, may lie in the very fact of this same feeble affinity, which possibly fits it for more thorough alterative effect in the organism. This view seems to accord with that of Dr. A. Rose, of Labanon, Ky., who says that unless Syrup of Hydriodic Acid is readily acted upon by exposure to heat, that he would not consider it suitable to use, though after such decomposition, it would, of course be unfit to administer. There may be some so-called "Syrups of Hydriodic Acid," which besides a proportion of Hydriodic Acid, contain some other basic combination than Hydrogen, in which the preparation would be mis-named, and would be merely an iodide, with some free Hydriodic Acid present. In such case, decomposition might be retarded, but the preparation would not be Syrup of Hydriodic Acid, and consequently would not produce the therapeutic effects of the remedy; such preparations, would not, of course, show the presence of free iodine with the starch test, as the iodine would be all in chemical combination, but containing an alkaline iodide, would prove irritating, and would be no improvement over iodide of potassium.

In conclusion, the statements made in the paper under consideration regarding the efficacy of Syrup of Hydriodic Acid, are simply well known truths; the very evidence which he brings forward to prove this fact, is the strongest argument he could possibly produce, in favor of Gardner's Syrup of Hydriodic Acid.

